

Organ: A quick update on our offerings given towards our new Organ. As of November 30, 2020, we have been blessed to receive over \$31,800 in contributions. We thank you for all of this support. The total cost of the organ was just over \$50,000, so there are still opportunities to give offerings towards our new Organ, which will be the cornerstone of our church's musical worship for years to come.

God's Gifts: Offerings during the month of December are critical each year in helping reach our church financial budget. All the extra worship opportunities of a typical year make December our best month for offerings, but this year our service count in December is cut nearly in half. Please prayerfully remember your church in your financial support of our ministry. As of November 30, 2020, our general offerings are just under \$305,000. The 2020 General Offerings Budget goal is \$386,000.

Light Up the Night: Our church has sponsored a tree again this year for Prairie Home Hospice's Light Up the Night event at Independence Park. Our tree is located near the park entrance on Lyon Street. Be sure to check it out!

Congregational Caroling: Singers and noise makers of all ages, please, mark your calendars and come bring God's Word in song to our Jesus Cares participants here in town. Many of these individuals have been isolated in their homes for months and would benefit greatly from the Good News brought to them with Christmas carols. Sunday afternoon, December 20th at 2:00 P.M., we will meet at the Church and divide into two or three groups. The more carolers the better, so that we can sing outside of more homes- following CDC guidelines. Watch for more information in the bulletin and Cougar Chronicle, or for more information, please, contact Melanie Werner at mel.werner21@gmail.com or 507-828-3798.

Snow Removal: We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? With pastor gone we need your help! A snow blower and shovels are available for you to use. Please contact our maintenance committee chairman Wes Hoflock to sign up at 829-1612 or whoflock@gmail.com. Thank you!

Offering: Just a reminder that we will not be passing the offering plate. You can leave your offering in the plate on the table as you leave church.

Pastoral Act: *Baptism:* Charlotte Kay, infant daughter of Martin and Amanda Boucek, became a child of God through the washing of Holy Baptism on December 7, 2020. She was born November 19, 2020. We pray God's blessings on this young family.

Installation: Newly elected council and board of education officers will be installed today. At our budget/election meeting Dave Biastock, Kevin Lee, Brian Onken, and Geoff Stelter were all elected to serve on the Church Council. Charles Hoflock and Darik Lyons were elected to serve on the Board of Education. May God bless them and the others who serve with wisdom and love. We wish to thank the five men going off – Rick Kobylinski, Arlen Meyer, Tom Werner, Mike Prah, and Justin Schultz. The voters also passed a budget of \$397,580. This includes a 3% increased growth in offerings that we pray our congregation can meet.

Vacancy: Pastor Johann Caauwe from Wood Lake is serving as our vacancy pastor. If you need to contact him please call 507-828-5136 or email him at pastor@stjohnswoodlake.com.

Christmas Eve Children's Service Recording: We will record the Children's Christmas program from 9:00 AM-10:30 AM on Saturday, December 19th at church. Students are reminded to dress up. This service will be aired on Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM on our YouTube channel.

Candy Bags: There will be a free will offering taken today as you leave. This collection will help off-set the cost of the items used in the children's Christmas bags. Donations can also be dropped off or mailed to the church office.

Holiday Schedule: We have numerous chances to worship the newborn Savior this Christmas season. We will have a midweek Advent service on Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00 PM. On Christmas Eve our children will lead us in a worship service aired on our YouTube channel at 5:30 PM. The candlelight service will remind us of the promises God made to us and how he fulfilled those promises through the Christ Child. Candles will help us see the "Light of the World" Jesus Christ. This service starts at **8:00 PM** at church. Christmas Day we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a service at **8:00 AM**. You will need to register to attend these special services. Registration will be available on our website next week.